

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed October 13, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 132, 16, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Emsters (U.S. 6,302,358). The Examiner acknowledged, however, that claims 2, 3, 14, 15, and 17 would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of their respective base and intermediate claims.

Applicants express appreciation to the Examiner for acknowledging the presence of allowable subject matter. Without additional comment and without prejudice as to the merits of the Examiner's rejections, Applicants have amended claims and canceled claims in order to expedite the issuance of the subject matter acknowledged as being allowable, and without prejudice to the filing of subsequent divisional or continuation applications to pursue allowance of one or more of the rejected claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2, thereby placing claim 1 in condition for allowance. Claim 2 has been canceled, as have withdrawn claims 6-9 and 11-12. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-5, and 10 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 14, thereby placing claim 13 in condition for allowance. Claim 14 has been canceled, as have withdrawn claims 18-21 and 23-24. Accordingly, claims 13, 15-16, and 22 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 17 has been amended to include the limitations of its respective base claim (claim 13), thereby placing claim 17 in condition for allowance.

Finally, claims 25-49 directed to non-elected inventions have been withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit pending claims 1, 3-5, 10, 13, 15-17, and 22 are now in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining matters that may be handled by telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: _____

Dec. 12, 2006

By: _____

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